



**New Mexico VA Health Care System
Department of Veterans Affairs**

News Release

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Albuquerque Dental Emergency Clinic Open Monday through Friday

ALBUQUERQUE - A dentist is now available at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to see eligible veterans with same day emergency dental appointments. A dental emergency can arise from a lost filling, a broken or loose tooth, or bleeding gums.

"If you have a toothache that lasts longer than 1 or 2 days, is severe, and/or you have a fever, earache, or pain upon opening your mouth wide, you have a dental emergency" said Eric J. Coontz, DDS, Chief, Dental Service. "Call the Dental Emergency Clinic and schedule a same day appointment. Patients in pain, with swelling and/or oral bleeding will have the highest priority."

The Dental Emergency Clinic is not open on a walk-in basis and same day appointments are suggested. Enrolled eligible veterans please call 505-256-2778 or toll free 1-800-465-8262, ext. 2778 and provide as much detail as possible about your condition. The Dental Service will make every effort to accommodate veterans' emergency dental needs. The 12:00 p.m. walk-in clinic has been discontinued.

"To avoid dental emergencies, brush your teeth at least 2 times per day, before you go to sleep and upon waking up" added Dr. Coontz. "Floss at least once per day and use a soft bristle toothbrush."

For more information please call the Dental Service at (505) 256-2778 or toll free 1-800-465-8262, ext. 2778.

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